

UOW *Community* News

University-Community Engagement Newsletter

Issue 11, Dec 2006/January 2007 ♦ <http://www.uow.edu.au/about/community/>



INSIDE THIS EDITION

page 1

UOW receives inaugural 'Commonwealth University of the Year' Award

page 2

UOW and local community members join forces to assist international students

Moss Vale holds graduation celebrations

page 3

University hosts cancer research donor function

Staff profile: Robbie Collins, Head UOW Shoalhaven Campus

Office of Community and Partnerships

Please keep us informed of your community engagement activities and initiatives so we can help to heighten awareness of this important aspect of the University's operations.

Contact: The Community Relations Coordinator on Ext.3110 or email: ocp@uow.edu.au

UOW receives inaugural "Commonwealth University of Year" award

The University of Wollongong has won the Times Higher Education Supplement (THES) inaugural award as "Commonwealth University of the Year".

The announcement was made at a glittering awards night ceremony held in London. UOW was the only short-listed Australian university.

The "Commonwealth University of Year" award 2006 was being run for the first time in liaison with the Association of Commonwealth Universities.

The award, open to all higher education institutions in the Commonwealth excluding those from the UK, was focused on how universities achieved community engagement. There were 18 THES awards in total, with the "Commonwealth University of the Year" award being the only one open to universities outside of the UK.

Read more on page 2.

> UOW's Manager of Community and Partnerships, Ms Monique Harper-Richardson, pictured at the Awards ceremony in London.



University acknowledged for significant water savings

The University of Wollongong and the University's Maintenance and Energy Manager, Mr Chris Hewitt, have been acknowledged by the State Government for helping to achieve significant water savings.

The acknowledgments were made at the annual Every Drop Counts Business Program Awards ceremony held in Sydney in November.

The Minister for Water Utilities, Mr David Campbell, said that since the program was launched in 2001 it has attracted more than 340 members and generated savings of about 24.1 million litres of water a day or 8.7 billion litres a year.

The University of Wollongong was commended after investing in Australia's first waterless, wet-dressed artificial grass hockey field, which will save an estimated 16,000 litres of water a day. Mr Hewitt won an individual award for significant achievements in water conservation. Read more at <http://media.uow.edu.au/news/2006/1117a/index.html>

Community Engagement Conference – Call for Abstracts

The 4th AUCEA Annual Conference 'The Scholarship of Community Engagement' will be held in Alice Springs on 2-4 July 2007.

The Scholarship of Community Engagement refers to engaged teaching, learning and research. It involves collaborative relationships that yield mutually beneficial outcomes for the university, its students and its communities.

The Conference invites robust scholarly debate and grass-roots practitioners' perspectives on the pressing questions that will shape the way forward for community engagement in Australia.

University academics, administrators and executive members, university practitioners and community partners are invited to submit proposals for: a refereed paper; a non-refereed paper; conducting a workshop; or presenting a poster session. OCP would appreciate being informed of your submission by contacting ocp@uow.edu.au

All abstracts and enquiries to aucea@apapdc.edu.au
Conference website: www.aucea.net.au/conference

Special Feature: UOW acknowledged for its community engagement

From page 1.

University of Wollongong Vice-Chancellor, Professor Gerard Sutton, said the announcement was "fantastic news" and clear recognition of the University's remarkable community engagement achievements, particularly its contribution to regional development.

The University's submission for the award detailed its significant contributions to the region's social and cultural life and its involvement in improving community life.

Judges of the award were particularly impressed by the new Graduate School of Medicine and proposed Innovation Campus which they said would "reinforce an engagement with the community that chimes with Commonwealth ideas".

"It's tremendous to be recognised for our commitment to a mutually beneficial relationship valued by the University and the community," Professor Sutton said.

The Vice-Chancellor stressed that the award was not just recognition for the University but for the city and region.

"Our whole community should be congratulated," Professor Sutton said.

UOW and City Council join forces to assist international students

A new project involving University, Wollongong City Council and various community representatives will explore ways for international students to feel a greater sense of belonging in the Wollongong community.

The project, jointly funded by the University's Community & Partnerships Office and Internationalisation Committee, puts into place the findings of research carried out by UOW researcher's Associate Professor Peter Kell and Dr Gillian Vogl from the Faculty of Education.

These findings included an important link between international students' level of English language proficiency and their social and cultural adjustment to life in Australia. The researchers were told it was not only the University but others in the broader Wollongong community who play an important role in facilitating this adjustment. Therefore the researchers recommended that community organisations and local businesses should be involved in helping to provide opportunities for students to be exposed to "authentic local" Australian experiences.

A community working group has been formed as part of the project comprising international and domestic students; Les Dion, director of Dion's Bus Service and junior vice-president of the Illawarra Business Chamber; Rebecca Perkins, marketing manager of Wollongong Central; community representatives from the Illawarra Ethnic Communities Council; Illawarra Multicultural Services; Volunteering Illawarra; the Community Relations Commission and representatives from Hope Church and Rotary.

Staff Award for Community Engagement - nominate a colleague

Nominations for the *Vice-Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Community Engagement 2007* are now open. This annual award recognises exceptional community engagement by a member of the University staff or group of staff.

Open to academic and general staff (including staff employed by the University's controlled entities), the award carries a prize of \$2,000. It will be presented at the Vice-Chancellor's Awards for Excellence event in April 2007.

Nominate a colleague now!

Read the guidelines and download a nomination form at: <http://www.uow.edu.au/about/community/staffaward.html>.

Nominations close on 23 February 2007.



Hats off: Moss Vale graduates celebrate their achievement.

Moss Vale holds graduation celebrations

The inaugural graduation celebration for students at Moss Vale Education Centre was held recently which included all graduating students from 2005 and 2006.

The students graduated with a range of degrees including Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Arts (Honours), Bachelor of Commerce and Bachelor of Business Administration.

Among those in attendance were Member for Southern Highlands, Peta Seaton; Liberal candidate for Goulburn, Pru Goward; the Mayor of Wingecarribee Council, Gordon Lewis; the University's Academic Registrar, Dr David Christie; and Moss Vale Education Centre Manager, Sonia Sense.

Moss Vale Education Centre was established in 2002 with 24 students and has grown to around 100 current students.

The University of Wollongong began construction of a new purpose-built facility for students last year which will be ready for occupation in Autumn session 2007.

Course offerings will be expanded this year with the introduction of postgraduate studies in Management.

UOW hosts cancer research donor function

The Illawarra Cancer Carers and Robert East Memorial Fund have raised almost \$250,000 over the past year for cancer research, and during November the University of Wollongong hosted an official function including a cheque presentation to recognise these significant donations.

The money raised has already provided a major boost to research at UOW into the new anti-cancer drug formulation project. The new formulation of drug components has shown considerable promise against cancer cells and is now being tested in animals.

Professor John Bremner from the Faculty of Science and Honorary Clinical Professor Philip Clingan have been leading the project and, after the animal experiments, they hope to further develop this drug combination for use in humans. If successful, the drug combination could greatly ease painful side effects on drug administration and be more effective in the treatment of certain cancers such as colo-rectal cancer.

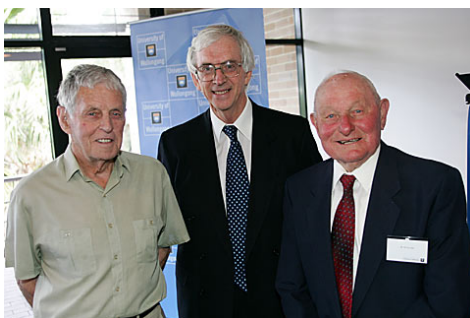


Pictured with the \$100,000 donation are Prof John Bremner and Prof Philip Clingan with the President of the Illawarra Cancer Carers, Mr Rex Saunders and UOW researchers.

They both spoke at the function about the achievements made possible by the donations toward their research, as well as the progress they are making in the search for an effective formulation for anti-cancer therapy.

Illawarra Cancer Carers is a non-profit organisation based at Wollongong Hospital. The group has raised \$200,000 towards cancer research at the University.

The Robert East Memorial Fund has also contributed \$47,000. The late Robert East was a prominent and respected member of the Kiama community. He served as the Deputy Mayor from 2004 and was also responsible for establishing and operating East's Beach Holiday Park.



President of Illawarra Cancer Carers, Mr Rex Saunders, is pictured with Prof John Bremner and Bruce East, father of the late Robert East.

Read more at
<http://media.uow.edu.au/news/2006/1116b/index.html#>

Staff Profile

Robbie Collins

Position:

Head of UOW's
Shoalhaven Campus
since May 2003



Community Engagement Activities:

- Actively involved in the development of educational options for students across all levels of education on the South Coast of NSW
- Regularly liaise with community in pursuit of development of Shoalhaven Campus as part of development in the City of Shoalhaven
- Member of:
 - Shoalhaven Area Consultative Committee
 - Chairperson of Shoalhaven and Southern Highlands Student Workplace Learning Committee (SWLP)
 - Shoalhaven City Council Conduct Committee
- The Shoalhaven Campus is an integral part of its local community, hosting numerous community events including public lectures, the annual Careers Expo and monthly film nights
- The Shoalhaven Campus hosts the annual Year 12 Indigenous Graduation Ceremony now in its 7th year
- The 'Uni Connections' program connects the Shoalhaven Campus with local high schools, helping to break down barriers and encouraging students to see tertiary education as a viable option
- A new Access Program – a 14 week part-time preparation course was launched late in 2006
- A new partnership with the Boyd Education Centre at Bundanon in an arts education project involves Grad Dip Ed students
- Community support for the new medical school has been phenomenal with a strong sense of community pride and ownership evident.

What are your interests outside of work:

- Community development
- Theatre and performance
- Horse riding
- Being in the bush or by the sea

[Note: if you are interested in being featured in the Staff Profile, contact ocp@uow.edu.au]